

Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes
June 7, 2007
Approved 09/04/2007

Members present: Janice O'Brien, Jack Karcz, Jean Ragonese, Tina Sturdivant

The meeting began at 7:15 PM

Mrs. O'Brien asked if all members received the meeting minutes from May 1, 2007. A motion to accept the minutes from May 1, 2007 was made by Jack Karcz and seconded by Tina Sturdivant. All present in favor of the vote.

Work Plan update

Mrs. O'Brien asked if all present had the opportunity to look at the updated Work Plan – Land Conservation in Fremont, Open Space Committee. Mrs. O'Brien stated that the committee has completed many of the tasks listed in the work plan. The only outstanding task is creation of an Open Space Plan for the town.

Open Space Plan Funding Opportunity

Mrs. O'Brien reported that she had spoken with Cliff Sinnott, director of the Rockingham Planning Commission recently about our interest in land conservation planning within Fremont. Mrs. O'Brien also stated that CTAP funding is available for development of Open Space Plans. The awarding of funding is determined by the forest society and local Planning Commission. Fremont will be a host town in September for a CTAP meeting concerning Open Space Planning. More information to come.

Looking Ahead

The remainder of the meeting was spent brainstorming ideas for the Open Space Committee to work on in the next year. The goal is to recruit volunteers to help with some the projects listed here.

- Monitoring project for town lands - Mr. Karcz proposed a scheduled check on the town forests on a regular basis. This would be accomplished by volunteers walking the property. There was also a discussion about the creation of "status report" that would be filled out each time property is walked by volunteer to record findings during the walk. The goal of this project would be to ensure upkeep of the town forests and to promote stewardship of these open spaces.
- Monitoring project for town held conservation areas – similar scope of work described above.
- G.P.S. the trails in Glen Oaks to create map in future.
- Clean up the town forest Project (spring, Earth Day activity, fall?) There was a discussion relative to what to do with items cleaned up (Bulky day, disposal) The Esker found in Oak Ridge is in need of garbage clean up (big job, will need extra hands).
- Addition of more Geocaching sites within town forests to attract new people to explore conservation areas.

- Wildlife Inventory, Birding Inventory, Plant Inventory in Glen Oaks and Oak Ridge. Mrs. O'Brien reported that she has spoken with a Professor from the University of New Hampshire about recruiting students to conduct wildlife inventory in Glen Oaks and Oak Ridge. If this occurs, the student's findings could serve as a baseline inventory that volunteers could then keep up.
- Approach Science Teachers at Ellis School to encourage use of Glen Oaks or Oak Ridge in their lessons or as a possible field trip site.
- Promote upcoming Open Space Events at Election Day
- Public Outreach and Educational Activities/Walks
 - Winter Owl Walk (contact NH Audubon for info/ornithologist)
 - Constellations (contact a representative at the Planetarium?)
 - Snowshoeing/cross country skiing in Glen Oaks
 - Spring Vernal Pool Workshop
 - Turtle Walk

Mrs. O'Brien indicated that she would like to see an activity each season. All members agreed that this would be a good idea.

Mrs. Sturdivant suggested that the above list be placed in the town newsletter to let the general public know our ideas and to attempt to recruit new membership and experience. Mrs. Sturdivant will compile the list and submit a brief commentary in the town newsletter for next month.

The committee will not have any meetings in the months of July or August. The next meeting will be on September 4, 2007 at 7:00PM at town hall.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Karcz and seconded by Mrs. Ragonese.

The meeting ended at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Tina Sturdivant